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TAGS: [PREL](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAL](#) [KWBG](#) [KPAO](#) [IS](#)

SUBJECT: JERUSALEM MEDIA REACTION (04/23): PALESTINIANS: TANGIBLE  
RESULTS MUST FOLLOW POSITIVE U.S. STATEMENTS

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Main Stories:  
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Al-Quds leads with the Jerusalem Municipality's "continued determination to demolish" 88 houses in the Al-Bustan neighborhood of East Jerusalem to make way for a public garden. According to coverage that also appears on Al-Hayat Al-Jadida's and Al-Ayyam's front pages Israeli authorities also demolished one home in Jabal Al-Mukabbir in East Jerusalem on April 22 because it lacked a building permit. In the West Bank, papers report that Israel demolished four homes in Aqraba village near Nablus. Al-Quds runs a lead photo of a little girl in tears after her Jerusalem home was demolished on April 22.

Al-Ayyam and Al-Hayat Al-Jadida lead with news on Palestinian Authority President Abbas receiving the Chinese Foreign Minister in Ramallah on April 22. During a press conference for the two leaders, Abbas noted that his visit to the U.S. was confirmed for May 28 and added that the meeting will be "extremely important" to the peace process in the Middle East. Abbas also noted that he has received "positive indications" from the U.S. regarding U.S. insistence on the two-state solution and an end to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. According to coverage, that also appears on Al-Quds' front page citing AFP, PLO chief negotiator Sa'eb Erekat is quoted stating, "President Abbas will ask President Obama to define steps for implementing the Road Map and Arab Peace Initiative to make the two-state solution, a fact on the ground." Erekat added that Abbas will also request Obama's assistance in identifying the mechanisms to halt settlement activities in all Palestinian Territories.

Al-Hayat Al-Jadida and Al-Ayyam run front page coverage citing wires about Egyptian Intelligence Chief Sulayman meetings with Israeli officials on April 22 to discuss security and political topics.

According to coverage, Sulayman met with Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, Foreign Minister Lieberman, Defense Minister Barak and Israeli President Peres. Sulayman extended an invitation to Netanyahu and Barak to visit Egypt. Netanyahu noted that Israel and Egypt have excellent relations based on mutual interest, friendship and cooperation, reporting concludes.

The three dailies front page coverage of U.S. Secretary Clinton stating on April 22 that the U.S. will not deal with any Palestinian government that includes or supports Hamas, unless Hamas recognizes Israel, denounces violence and respects all signed agreements with the Palestinian Authority as outlined by the Middle East Quartet. Al-Quds runs inside coverage, with a photo of Secretary Clinton addressing the House Foreign Affairs Committee and noting that serious sanctions will be imposed on Iran if it insists on continuing its nuclear program and that the U.S. is open and ready for talks.

All front pages report that Palestinian Authority Premier Fayyad participated in the Fourth Belin Conference for Popular Resistance on April 22. Fayyad indicated in his speech that time has come for the world to end the double standards used when dealing with Israel and Palestinian on the issue of Israeli occupation. He added that international parties must earn credibility by achieving tangible results on the ground and forcing Israel to halt settlement activities and adhere to international law and agreements. He

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further added that mechanisms for implementation of signed agreements must be identified, starting with serious talks between Palestinians and Israel with a clear timeframe for ending the occupation. Fayyad added that peaceful, popular resistance will continue until the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian Territories ends.

Al-Hayat Al-Jadida runs a front page story quoting Israeli Foreign Minister Lieberman stating that the Arab Peace Initiative is extremely dangerous and meant to destroy Israel since the Initiative recognizes the right of return of Palestinian refugees. Lieberman further described the two-state solution as, "empty and having no context," according to reporting.

Al-Quds runs front page coverage of Palestinian factions in Gaza including Hamas and Islamic Jihad, meeting to discuss the current political situation in the Palestinian Territories in an attempt to pave the way for successful Palestinian unity talks in Cairo on April 26.

In economic news, all dailies run inside page coverage on the opening ceremony of a new branch of the Housing Bank for Trade and Finance in Yatta town in the West Bank Hebron district on April 21. The opening ceremony was attended by the Governor of the Palestine Monetary Authority. In other news, Palestinian Authority Minister of National Economy Hassounah told press conference that the merger agreement between Palestinian Telecommunications "Jawwal" and Kwaiti "Zein" has been finalized and will be announced in few days.-----

BLOCK QUOTES:

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1) Al-Quds independent daily runs an editorial under the title, "They can't keep talking forever" (04/23): "Obama's statements say that Palestinians and Israelis cannot keep talking forever and that tangible results have to be translated into progress on the ground... [the statements] are another positive step by President Obama regarding the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in addition to his support for the two-state solution... [Now] he has to pursue this by translating the statements into tangible facts and action... If Obama is serious about improving relations with the Islamic world as he indicated many times, then he needs to realize that this can easily be achieved by resolving the Palestinian issue."

2) Regular columnist Abdil Halim Swalim opines in Al-Ayyam independent daily under the title, "The Israeli Government: The end before the beginning" (04/23): "The end of the Israeli government will be the beginning of a new and serious peace process... Given

Israel's rejection of the Arab Peace Initiative, particularly the right of return for the Palestinian refugees... and given President Obama's support for the initiative, Israel will collapse at the first corner and a new government that is willing and open to accepting the new U.S. vision for the Middle East and the Arab-Israeli conflict will replace [Netanyahu's government]."

WALLES